

FORM B - BUILDING

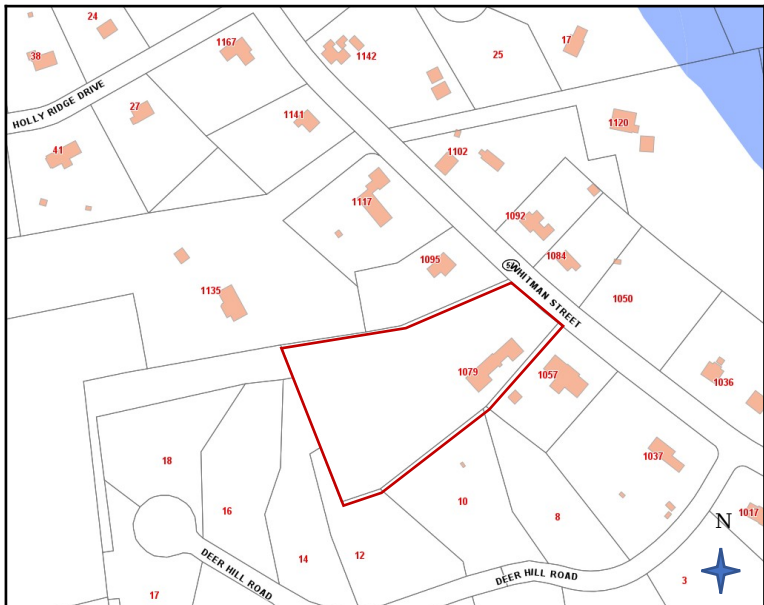
Date (*month / year*): May 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

101-0-18-0

Hanover

HNS.270

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
North Hanson

Address: 1079 Whitman Street

Historic Name: John and Louisa Willett
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling
Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: White's History, Plan #3, Page 46

Style/Form: Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard, Vinyl/Wood,

^{Vinyl}
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached barn and wood garden shed to east of house

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Three series of additions to south facade of the house including two one-story additions and a three-story barn in the rear, vinyl replacement windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 2.9 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares, Route 58, in an area of single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large open lots bordered by low stone walls and fencing which are characterized grass lawns scattered with numerous mature trees, bushes, and other

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style home has a wide gable roof with tall gable-end dormers on its north, street-facing addition. A series of progressively larger additions to the south façade give the house a long and narrow, l-shaped footprint, ending with a three-story barn at its southern end. The house has wood clapboard siding and wood trim with asphalt-shingled gable style roofs at four different levels and pitches. The gable roofs project out slightly over the facades below and have wood trimmed eaves and soffits on all sides. The double hung windows have all been replaced with six-over-one vinyl replacement windows. Three masonry chimneys are located at the center of the house – a short, corbeled chimney located at the center of the peak on the main roof ridge, a second, taller corbeled chimney located to its south in the first one-story addition to the house, and a third, shorter and wider corbeled chimney is located between the first and second additions.

The original Cape style house is located at the north end of the structure and has a wide, square footprint with a long shallow gable roof. The north façade has wider eaves with a flat wood board cornice across the top of the façade that has dentil moldings along its upper edge and an unusual bead detail along the bottom edge of its wood clapboards. The façade is symmetrical with two narrow double hung windows to either side of the central front door. The wide entrance surround extends into the cornice above the door with a projecting upper edge while the door appears to be a solid wood door behind a newer storm door. The entrance opens onto a low brick and cement stoop with brick steps along its northern edge ending at the curving stone walkway between the front door and the driveway along the east property line. The north façade is relatively short below a large gable roof slope with two tall and narrow gable-end dormers above. Both dormers have gable-end roofs which are flush with the face of the dormer and project out over the sides, with wood molding along the upper edges of the pediment and eaves. The dormers are wood clapboard sided with cornerboards and a single double hung window located below the pediment.

The east façade of the original Cape style house is wide and simply detailed. The gable-end roof projects out slightly beyond the walls below and has wood trimmed eaves and soffits. Two double hung windows are located in the gable-end and three more are evenly distributed across the first floor. Around the southeast corner of the original house, the east façade of the projecting rear additions are only partially visible. On the addition closest to the original house, an open entrance porch with square posts is visible to the right of a large overhead garage door in the slightly taller second addition.

Behind this garage at the southern end of the building is a large gable-roofed barn which runs parallel to the original house at the south end of the extended building. According to the current owner, this is a new structure built on an earlier foundation. The two-story gable-roofed barn has a broad and high clerestory roof to allow additional light into the center of the barn. The structure is vinyl sided with double hung windows which match the rest of the house. A pedestrian door is located on the barn's north façade to the east of the connecting additions and is accessed by an unpainted wood landing with wood board railings. Two windows are located on the central third floor of the north facade. On the barn's east façade, a large barn door is located at the center of the structure with a short shed-style roof over the entrance. A sloping ramp leads into the barn from the

Continuation sheet 3

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driveway which has stone retaining walls to either side. A single window is located in the third floor and two windows are located on each floor below. This same window pattern is repeated on the west façade of the barn.

The west façade of the original Cape style house has two windows at the center of the gable-end and one at each corner of the first floor. A shed style dormer is visible on the south slope of the original building with wood trimmed eaves and a small window that is partially hidden from view by the southwest corner of the main building. The one-story addition directly behind the house has a large wood deck across its west façade which is surrounded by tall wood railings with square balusters. The wooden deck is low to the ground and has a set of wood stairs on its north façade leading into the yard. The west façade of the addition has an entry door leading onto the porch and a set of three double hung windows. The second addition has a single door on its west façade.

The house is set well back from the street on a large, gently sloping lot. Evergreen bushes and foundation plantings surround the north and east façades, but the rest of the site is primarily open grass lawn dotted by individual trees. A low stone wall runs along part of the west property line and along the north property line to the wide asphalt paved driveway. The right side of the driveway is finished with a low granite block retaining wall and the left side is wooded. Two small, prefabricated wood sheds are located in the yard to the west of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

White's History of Hanson does not list a construction date for the house but does state that John Willett lived here in 1830. John's son, John Jr., and grandson, Isaac Willett, would go on to live just down the street at 964 Whitman Street. John Willett (1775- 1860) is listed in the 1820 U.S. Census as living in Hanson in a household of six with one person working in agriculture and another in manufacturing. John was born in Abington and in 1799 married Louisa Hatch in Bridgewater. The 1856 Walling Map shows J. Willett as living in the house located on the south side of what is now Whitman Road. After John and Louisa's deaths in 1860 and 1861 respectively, their son, John Willett Jr., sold the house and its twelve acre lot to Levi Cox in 1866.¹ Levi Cox (1826-1887) was the son of Ephraim Cox of Hanson and lived with his family before marrying Caroline Perry in 1857 and purchasing 1079 Whitman Street, where he worked as a farmer. The 1879 Walker Atlas lists the house was occupied by L. Cox.

Caroline Cox remained on the farm for over ten years after Levi's death, selling it in 1899 to Benjamin Paige.² When the property next appears on the 1903 Richards Atlas, B. F. Paige is listed as the owner, and the property is shown with three structures on it - a T-shaped house near the street with a larger rectangular building, possibly the original barn, to its south and a second large rectangular structure to the southeast. Benjamin and his wife, Jessie, are listed on both the 1910 and 1920 U.S. Census as owning and farming the property along with one to four of their grown children. In 1929, the Paiges sold the property to Joseph Freeborn and Thomas Harron. On the 1930 U.S. Census, Thomas Harron is listed as the owner, but both men are listed as gardeners working on their own general farm. Freeborn sold his share of the property to Harron in 1937, and by the 1940 Census, Thomas is listed as the sole resident of the property which he continued to farm. Harron eventually sold the property in 1967 to Arthur and Ethel Perham.³ Arthur was a welder at the Quincy Shipyards, and he, Ethel, and their daughter, Debra, lived here until 1989. That year the Perhams sold the house to Michael and Beth Richardson. The Richardsons lived in the house until moving to Marshfield in 2005, when they sold the house to Richard G. Barke III. The house was foreclosed on that same year and sold in 2008 to Joseph and Deborah

¹ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 335, Page 205

² Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 790, Page 110

³ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 3345, Page 498

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Barretto.⁴ Current owners Bruce and Therese Sentas purchased the property in 2014. That same year they established the Sentas Family Farm, a working farm where they raise goats, chickens and ducks.

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⁴ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 35654, Page 300